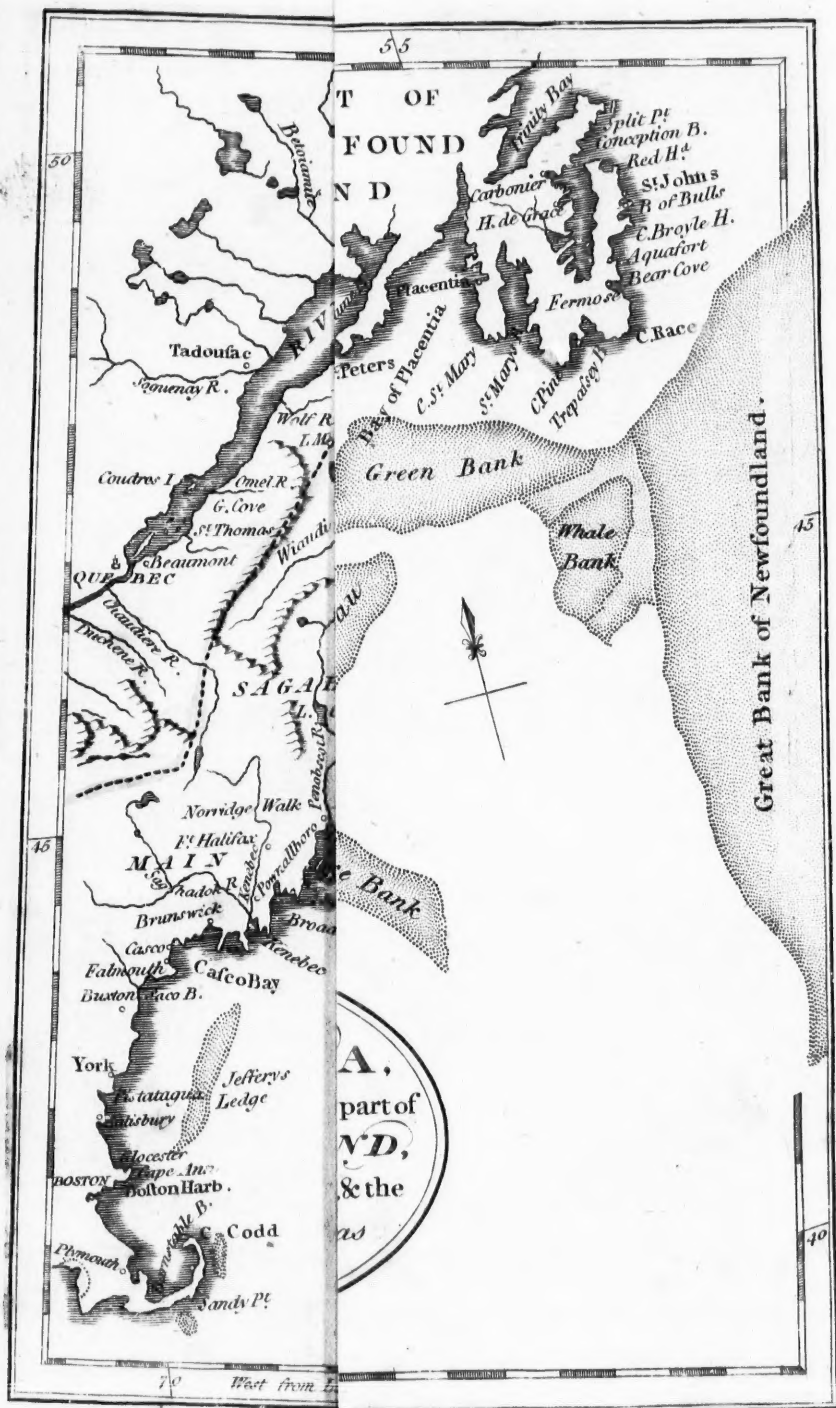




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R E M A R K S

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N O V A S C O T I A.

IN A LETTER TO THE

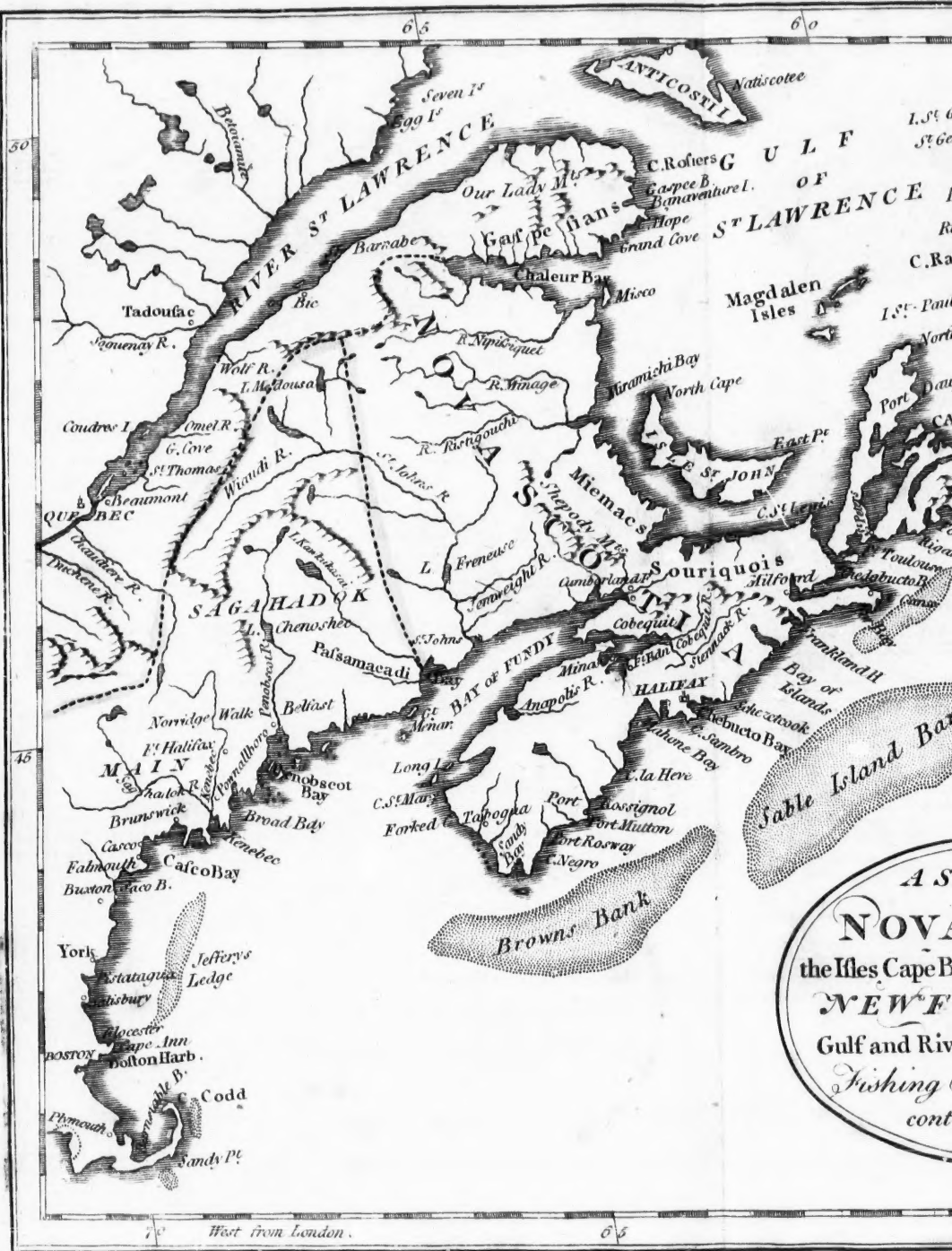
Right Hon. the Earl of MACCLESFIELD.

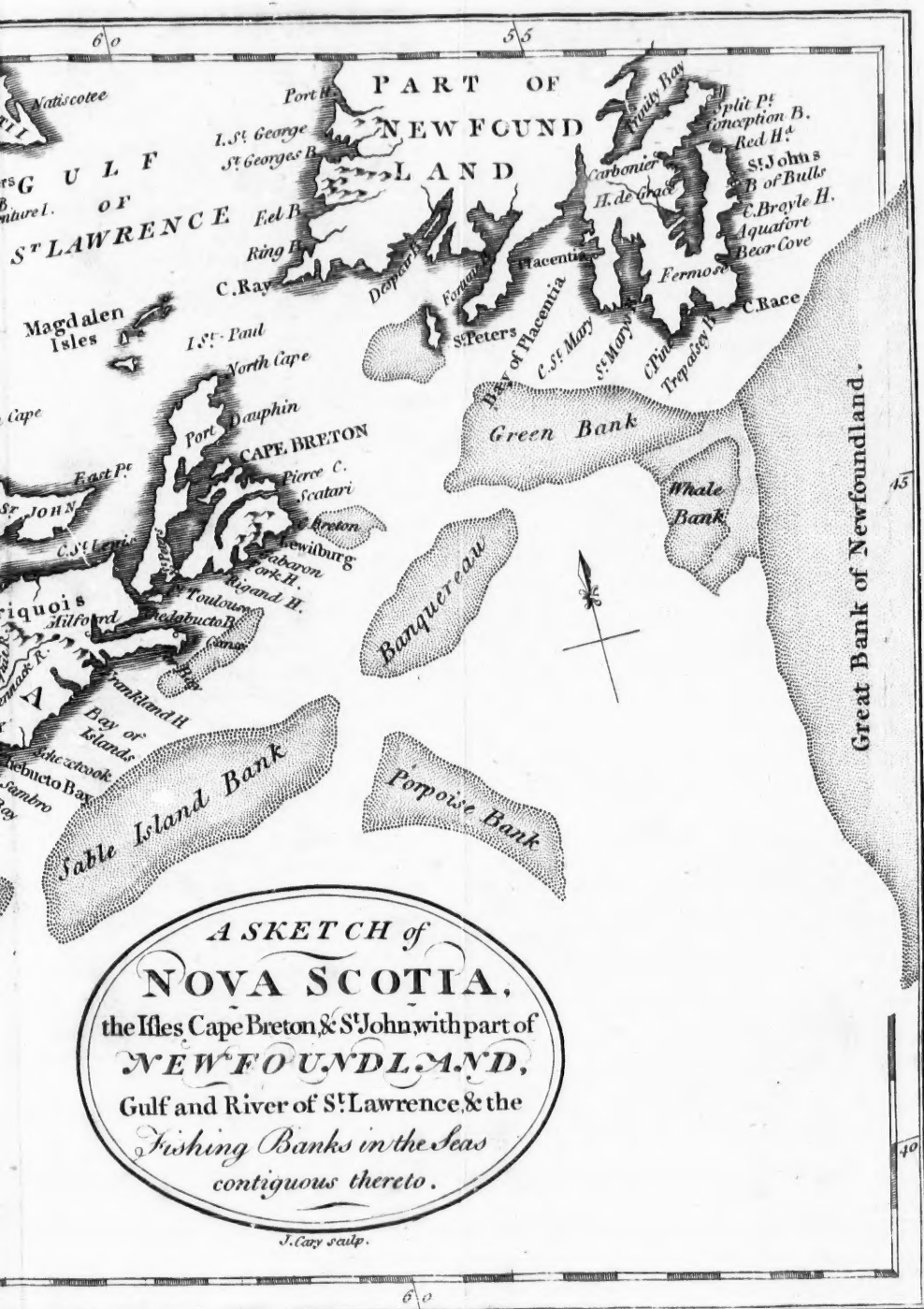
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MY LORD,

I am but lately arrived in England from Nova Scotia, a country now become the subject of much conversation, in which many very erroneous opinions prevail concerning the climate and soil, &c. of that country, and this propagated by artful and designing people, strengthened and supported by many gentlemen who have had but a very transient and superficial knowledge, and whose judgment in general of the whole, were formed from what they saw on the coast, and that chiefly about Halifax.

If more than thirty years residence,
and the greatest part of that time spent in

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acquiring

acquiring experience in agriculture, can be a foundation for a knowledge of that country, I am so far qualified, and therefore shall take upon me to describe it with the strictest regard to truth; which I hope will remove all unjust prejudices, either designedly, artfully, or ignorantly raised to mislead worthy minds, regarding a country that may be made of the greatest importance to this.

It is now generally supposed there will be considerable emigrations from his Majesty's European dominions (and other parts) to the States of America; might it not be just and wise to turn these voluntary exiles, by the force of truth, to populate our remaining possessions in that part of the world?

Your exalted rank, and well known character for love of truth, justice, and your country, point your Lordship out as the fittest person to address on this occasion. It is therefore, my Lord, with
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the most humble submission, I request your Lordship's patronage of the few following matters of fact.

And first, as to the Climate.

The Peninsula of Nova Scotia, is from 5 to 7° south latitude of London, consequently the sun's warmth and influence there, must be greater than here. If at any time the cold is more severe in winter, and the frost more intense, the difference arises from the winds, which, when blowing from N. W. and W. N. W. pass over wildernesses, and large tracts of uncultivated lands, interspersed with many rivers, and extensive lakes, and lie congealed generally till the middle of April, in frost and snow; but these snows melt when the winds come about to the E. S. E. and from thence to the W. S. W. and are frequently in the winter carried off all the cleared lands, so as to render it a detriment to the people, the roads being best whilst the snows lie upon them,

them, and the weather is the clearest and most wholesome for man and beast whilst the cold winds continue. It may appear strange, that no severity of weather prevents the people working under the shelter of the woods, except rain; tho' there may be some few days too severe to permit delicate people to be long exposed to it. To prove, my Lord, that any extraordinary severity of the weather, which is now remarked, will be no longer complained of when that country shall be settled and cultivated like Europe, I took a thermometer, and hung it out of a window, in a northern aspect, exposed to the wind at N. W. I immediately removed the same thermometer into a southern one, sheltered from the wind, and exposed to the sun, and the sudden and almost instantaneous effect, was a change of 40° . And after all, notwithstanding so much has been said about the severity of the winter, very few of the Europeans change their ordinary cloathing, except those who expect to be long exposed to the open air; and
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when at home, they may keep themselves as warm as they please. Every body knows the abundance of wood they have for fuel, but few imagine that they have both coals and turf; the former of which there is in many parts of Nova Scotia, and also many bogs. And here it may be asked, Why are coals frequently imported from England into Halifax? The answer is, The difficulty and expence of digging and transporting coals from our mines (especially during the war, when labourers were difficult to be had) renders that method (the small quantity they bring being only for ballast) much cheaper. But the King's troops in America were chiefly supplied from Cape Breton mines. The want of labourers, in like manner, affects the cutting and transporting wood for sale. But this is an affair with which the countryman and settler in general have nothing to do. They have their wood in plenty at no great distance, which they cut down at leisure in winter, and bring with ease and little expence to their doors: a quan-

tity of wood sufficient to supply two fires for a week (and which is equal to one-third of a chaldron of coals) cost, before the war, only eighteen-pence for cutting and piling; that is, a chaldron of coals, or what is equal thereto, three cords of wood, would cost, the cutting and piling, four shillings and sixpence.

Again, my Lord, that *that* climate is favourable to the production of all kinds of grain, roots, fruits, and vegetables, which Britain produces, is a demonstrable truth. The seasons, indeed, for sowing, are not exactly the same; but good husbandry produces good grain. They (from some experience) prefer the spring to the fall for sowing their wheat, because it is not exposed to so many injuries and accidents, as it would be in case of an open winter. Nor is the grain, perhaps, inferior, nor the inconvenience greater to the farmer in the course of his business; if he plows his ground in the preceding fall, and having nothing to do upon his lands thus plowed, then to sow his grain,

grain, and lightly to harrow it, he may get all his wheat into the ground before the middle of April; even though the frost, in the beginning of that month, should not be entirely out of the ground, which rarely happens. The ground is then, by the winter frosts, light and mellow. But even should the wheat-sowing be deferred till the middle of May, as may sometimes happen, through bad weather, but more likely carelessness, good crops have been produced and reaped, almost as early as that sowed in a less advanced season. After the wheat, they sow oats, pease, beans, barley, and Indian corn, which succeeds very well. And though it should be the latter end of May, or even the middle of June, yet their barley sowed so late, will be good. They then plant potatoes, that root succeeds with them very well; great quantities are raised, and cattle are fatted with them. Turnips are sowed from the latter end of July to the middle of August, and grow to a large size, which they draw before the severe frost comes,

and put them in pits or cellars, to preserve them from it; and with these, as well as with potatoes, they feed their store hogs, and fat their sheep.

Rye is the only grain sown in the fall, which is often reaped in July, and wheat and pease, &c. about the middle of August: but if later, there seldom arises any injury, never having long continued rains, the fall of the year in that country being (generally) remarkably fine; and the season for hay-making is most commonly good; eight-and-forty hours being generally sufficient to cure it. Mowing begins the first or second week in July, though in June red clover is fit to mow, if the land is rich.

As to the soils in this country, they are, as in most others, of different natures: but amongst them there is one, I believe, almost peculiar to Nova Scotia; and not exceeded by any in the world in point of richness and fertility.

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This soil is found on the sides of rivers, which have a communication with the Bay of Fundy ; the rapidity of the tides in that Bay, occasions a great muddiness ; which subsiding in eddies, form bodies, in a few years, of marsh-land, composed entirely of those light floating particles in the water. These marsh-lands, when they arise to a level of common high tides, are dyked, which inclose them from spring-tides ; these are made at no great expence ; and then, by the help of drains, they become more firm and dry, earlier in the spring than uplands.

Plow these lands the third year after they have been dyked and drained, and from one plowing only, their produce will be extremely great ; often as far as forty or more bushels of sound good wheat, commonly weighing sixty pounds a bushel, of eight gallons Winchester measure. And what may be thought astonishing, my Lord, twelve years successively, this land has continued to yield large crops, without change of grain, rest,

or

or manure ; and the better sort of it, after these crops, naturally produce red clover in great abundance, which rise through the stubble, and the greatest part of the uplands do the same, if manured.

As to white clover, or trefoil, that arises spontaneously, with a variety of other natural grasses, soon after opening and clearing the woods. This country has the advantage of lime-stone in most parts, also beds of marl. And the sides and beds of the rivers near the Bay of Fundy, produce excellent manure for the uplands. Also, as the length of the winter oblige them to fodder their cattle longer than in Europe, their barn and stable-yards consequently produce very considerable quantities of manure.

To remove the fear which may arise from the thoughts of a long winter, it may be necessary to explain, my Lord, the manner of their wintering their cattle, in the parts adjacent to the Bay of Fundy.

Snow

Snow (with small frost for a night or two) does not begin to fall in that country, in general, before the middle of November, neither of which remain: but the cold and severe weather increases, by a gentle gradation, till about Christmas; then the cold sets in; and the snow falling pretty deep, the stock of cattle must have fodder thrown out to them, as few people house their young cattle or horses all the winter. This fodder consists of straw, and of two sorts of hay, distinguished by *salt* and *flat* grass, both cut on marshes not dyked; the flat sort is exceeding good, and of which one acre often produce three tons and more.

The milch cows, and working horses and oxen, are kept in the house, and foddered every night with their best hay, for about five months or more, that is, from December towards the middle of April; and notwithstanding the confinement, a murrain amongst the cattle, or rot amongst the sheep, have never been known in that country. When the snows are carried
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off by rain and thaws, which frequently happen in the winter, at these times the cattle try to get abroad; and they could subsist very well. But as no country yields better, or more plentiful crops of hay, as well as pasture, the provident farmer need not be under any apprehensions as to the length of the winter.

All kinds of fruit, roots, and vegetables, that have been tried in this country, succeed as well as in England; and some are brought to greater perfection in the natural way.

Permit me now, my Lord, to take up a few moments more of your Lordship's time, in examining some of the natural advantages of Nova Scotia, which, if thoroughly understood, will render it an object inestimable to Great Britain.

First,

First, my Lord, it is the nearest part of the American continent to any part of Europe. And as its coast, on the Atlantic Ocean, is the nearest to the coast and Banks of Newfoundland, the people of New-England acknowledge, that three voyages to the Banks, will not take up more time from Nova Scotia, than two from theirs.

Again, its own coast, from the Bay of Chaleur round to Minas-baſon in the Bay of Fundy, abounds with all ſorts of fiſh, ſuch as cod, mackarel, herrings, with moſt kinds of ſhell-fiſh, and other ſea-fiſh. The rivers are furniſhed, like-wiſe, with ſalmon, ſturgeon, baſs, ſhad, ale-wives, eels, &c. &c. &c. And as no country is better provided with numerous and convenient harbours, ſo it exceeds all others for the purpoſes of carrying on the moſt extenſive fiſhery, with the decided advantage of beginning their ſpring fiſhery much earlier than that of Newfoundland, Cape Breton, or Gulph of St. Lawrence.

The winter not being near so severe, their spring commencing earlier, and what is still of more consequence, their coast is soon freed of all ice, except that part near Cape Breton and Gulph of St. Lawrence. Whereas the coasts of Newfoundland and Cape Breton are generally late in the spring, incumbered with large bodies of floating ice, that extend many leagues, which are driven from the Gulph of St. Lawrence after it breaks from those shores in the spring.

These might seem sufficient reasons, and what must in time give the preference to the Nova Scotia fishery.

But when it is considered further, that they have other and greater advantages, which neither Newfoundland nor Cape Breton have, or ever can have, such as a plentiful country at their backs, not only to supply the fishery with all sorts of provisions, but also with the greatest variety of good timber for building vessels, and with masts and spars of all sizes, which
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it is well known these countries are not so well provided with, it should seem individuals must be blind to their own interest, not to fly to inhabit such a country, and the nation infatuated, not to hold out to them all the encouragement that such a population deserves.

The great and invaluable fishery on the extensive coasts of Nova Scotia, has hitherto been almost entirely carried on by the people of the New-England provinces; many of whom have become settlers there, finding the lands worth cultivating, and for the conveniency of curing the fish, which they daily caught in boats. New-England, in consequence, drew all the profits of that fishery, as from thence they sent all the necessary supplies, for which they had the fish in exchange.

The political alteration that has lately taken place, must of course break these connections, and all the benefits center

enter into that business, somewhat in the manner the Newfoundland fishery is carried on : only here they can do it to much greater advantage (as is before remarked) having a plentiful country to supply provisions for those employed in the fishery. And here these people may remain the winter to their advantage, as they will find ample employment by clearing land, cutting wood for fuel, and poles for fencing ; and also in making pot-ash. Whereas in the other fisheries, the greatest part of the people go out and return annually, in which there is a considerable risk ; and the expence cannot be much less than ten pound a-year for each individual's two passages, and their loss of time.

In this province are also most sorts of timber, which generally grow to a very great size ; also abundance of pine-trees of dimensions fit for the largest ships. These lay long neglected ; and it has been but four or five years past when several ship loads have been brought from thence
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for his Majesty's navy. The masts are easily conveyed, as well as the farmer's produce, by means of lakes and rivers, (with which that country abounds) to the ships in harbours

Before I close this letter, my Lord, I must beg leave to point out some further advantages this country may be of to Great Britain, if she intends to hold any possessions in the American hemisphere.

There can be no doubt but that the many great advantages possessed by this country will draw multitudes to inhabit it. The general goodness of the soil, particularly in the interior parts, and fishery on the coast, will amply supply them with all the necessary comforts of life; and in the diligent prosecution of these two branches of fishing and farming, they will find the greatest profits, without attempting manufactures of any sort. Even mechanics in general quit their trades, tho' most in demand, and who received the
highest

highest wages, and become cultivators of land; in which they never fail making themselves a comfortable living, if sober and industrious: And towards the decline of life, may enjoy the fruits of their labour in ease and plenty, and leave their children handsomely provided for; whom, if they follow the example of industry, become rich and respectable. Consequently all their wearing apparel (and that chiefly made up, even their shoes) is carried from England, as is also the greatest part of their household furniture.

It is well known there are rich mines in that country, even some of silver, copper, iron, and coals. There are quarries of free stone, the best of grindstones being to be had there; and clays of different sorts, fit for bricks, tiles, and potter's works. The best of lime stones, with immense quantities of plaister of Paris. Still no attempts are made to manufacture those, except some articles they cannot do without in their buildings.

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The situation also of this country should be considered as of the greatest importance, from the protection and succour it could give on occasion, to Newfoundland, Cape Breton, the island St. John's, the Gulph of St. Laurence, and even Quebec: It lies also extremely convenient for sending speedy succours to our West India islands; and is provided with most articles of trade fit for these markets, equal, (if not superior) to any Province upon that continent. And in case of the necessity to employ a fleet in America, no place can be more proper for the rendezvous of the British navy. Can any harbour be more so than that excellent one of Halifax; placed as it is near the center of the coast, easy of access, and open at all seasons of the year, with a plentiful country behind it, to supply the seamen, or any number of troops which it may be thought necessary to keep in garrison there, with refreshments of all kinds? Nothing can be a stronger proof of the truth of this, than at near the commencement of the late

late war, his Majesty's troops at Boston had fifteen hundred head of neat cattle sent thither, besides a great number of sheep, hogs, and poultry, with roots and several ship-loads of hay and oats. This great supply from so young a settlement, it was imagined, would have exhausted the country. But that was not the case, my Lord ; for when the troops came from Boston, they found every thing in abundance ; nor has there been the least appearance of a scarcity ever since.

Many people are of a mistaken opinion, my Lord : the settlement of the country began with that of Halifax. To correct this error, we need only recollect, that the establishment of Halifax was undertaken at the conclusion of the war in 1749, when Cape Breton was restored to the French : and the object of this establishment then was, to be a check upon Louisbourg, by *their* keeping an intervening force between it and the Colonies ; and also for the great purpose of protecting our Newfoundland fishery. To form
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this settlement of Halifax in a barren and unfavourable soil, surrounded as it was with enemies of Indians, and with secret ones of French, it cost the nation large sums, which money was entirely expended on Halifax and its inhabitants, with the Lunenburg settlement of Germans, and to erect a few small forts in the back country, the garrisons of which were generally kept shut up by the surrounding Indians:

In this state it remained till the year 1760, when the former *Accadean* inhabitants, or neutrals, as they were called, having been removed in 1756, General Lawrence, Governor of the Province, published invitations for people to come and settle upon these lands. In consequence of which, a considerable number from the neighbouring Colonies, and many from Great Britain (particularly from Yorkshire) and Ireland, came thither; but the late American war put a stop to that promising appearance. From hence, however, it is clear, that it is only from 1760, and not before, that Nova Scotia became

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a settlement; and from that period has been no further expence to the nation, except the small annual grant from parliament, for the support of the officers of government, and the maintenance of some few small garrisons. Even during the greatest part of the American war, their small forts have been abandoned, and the whole country has been left to defend itself by its militia, which occasioned not only much loss of time, but of property likewise, the inhabitants being frequently plundered by the incursions of their neighbouring enemies, and what could not be carried away, was in part destroyed by them.

But for fear their being exposed occasionally to the incursions of their neighbours, might appear an objection formidable enough to prevent people from coming to settle, let me remind them, that the peninsula is joined to the continent by a very narrow isthmus, not eighteen miles from the head of the Bay of Fundy, to the Bay of Vert, facing the
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island of St. John's, in the Gulph of St. Lawrence ; and even this isthmus is divided by rivers within three miles of each other, consequently the peninsula is almost an island : and as we possess both sides of the Bay of Fundy, or at least all the narrow parts, the entrance might be easily secured from surprise or attacks by water. The great advantage for the defence of this country, when more populous, is obvious from its many lakes and rivers, which, with a small expence, will afford a most easy and expeditious communication to all parts.

Further, my Lord, should the wisdom of administration see fit to establish the town and harbour of Halifax, as an arsenal and place of strength, perhaps it would be thought expedient to remove the seat of civil government to a more central and plentiful part of the country : and the expediency of such a measure, together with the utility, and consequently the pleasure it will give to the greatest part of the people, may be thought worthy consideration.

I have

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration, and with the most profound respect,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's

most obedient, and

devoted humble servant,

The AUTHOR.

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